

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 19-30, without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A microporous PTFE membrane comprising:
a first surface and a second surface and a thickness and bulk defined by the first and second surfaces, the microporous PTFE membrane modified by subjecting the microporous PTFE membrane to non-coherent broadband UV irradiation while pores of the membrane are impregnated with a liquid, the membrane having a critical wetting surface tension (CWST) of at least about 40 dynes/cm ($.40 \text{ erg/mm}^2$) through the thickness and bulk of the microporous PTFE membrane, a wetting/dewetting ratio of at least about .7 for 2 or more cycles, and wherein at least one surface has a fluorine/carbon (F/C) ratio of about 1.2 or more.
2. (Previously Presented) The microporous PTFE membrane according to claim 1 having a low level of extractables.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The microporous PTFE membrane of claim [[3]] 6, having a CWST of at least about 40 dynes/cm ($.40 \text{ erg/mm}^2$).
5. (Previously Presented) The microporous PTFE membrane of claim 1, having a water bubble point of at least about 33 psi.
6. (Currently Amended) A microporous PTFE membrane comprising:
a first surface and a second surface and a thickness defined by the first and second surfaces, the microporous PTFE membrane modified by subjecting the microporous PTFE membrane to non-coherent broadband UV irradiation while pores of the membrane are impregnated with a liquid, the membrane having a CWST of at least 26 dynes/cm ($.26 \text{ erg/mm}^2$) through the thickness of the microporous PTFE membrane, and a wetting/dewetting

ratio of at least about .7 for 2 or more cycles, wherein the microporous PTFE membrane is free of a coating.

7. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 1, having a nominal pore size in the range of from about 0.02 to about 0.1 microns.

8. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 1, having a CWST of at least about 45 dynes/cm (.45 erg/mm²) through the thickness of the membrane.

9. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 8, having a CWST of at least about 58 dynes/cm (.58 erg/mm²).

10. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 2, having a water bubble point of at least about 45 psi (about 310 kPa).

11. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 6, having a water bubble point of at least about 75 psi (about 516.8 kPa).

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 1, which resists dewetting when contacted with hot water as a degassing fluid.

15. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 1, wherein at least one surface has an oxygen/carbon (O/C) ratio of about 0.15 or less.

16. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 2, having less than about 100 ppb extractable matter.

17. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim [[3]] 2, having less than about 30 ppb metal extractable matter.

18. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 6, having less than about 15 ppb metal extractable matter.

19.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) A process for treating a fluid comprising contacting the membrane claim 1 with the fluid for treating and recovering the treated fluid.

33. (Original) The process of claim 32, wherein the fluid for treating is a degassing fluid.

34. (Previously Presented) The PTFE membrane of claim 1, wherein the membrane is free of a coating.

Please add the following claims:

35. (New) The PTFE membrane of claim 1, modified by subjecting the membrane to non-coherent broadband UV irradiation while pores of the membrane are impregnated with a liquid selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, hydrogen peroxide, sodium sulfite, ammonium sulfate, ammonium sulfite, sodium aluminate, copper sulfate, boric acid, hydrochloric acid, and nitric acid.

36. (New) The PTFE membrane of claim 6, modified by subjecting the membrane to non-coherent broadband UV irradiation while pores of the membrane are impregnated with a liquid selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, hydrogen peroxide, sodium sulfite, ammonium sulfate, ammonium sulfite, sodium aluminate, copper sulfate, boric acid, hydrochloric acid, and nitric acid.